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IN 237306

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COUNTRY: VENEZUELA/CUBA
DOI : 31 MARCH 1977
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR,
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. EXCEPT BRACKETS

SUBJECT: VCUBAN GOVERNMENT CHARGE OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (JFK)

ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT CUBAN/VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

ACQ : VENEZUELA, CARACAS (1 APRIL 1977) FIELD NO. [HVC] 7626

SOURCE : A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN FROM A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH
GOOD ACCESS TO HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. HE IS A
FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE.

TO STATE: NO DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT TO MR. SAUNDERS

TO FBI : FOR MR. LEAVITT

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/8/94 BY SP8 MJA/KCL

(JFK)

1. ON THE EVENING OF 31 MARCH 1977 THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT

RECEIVED AN INFORMAL COMPLAINT FROM THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS

THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (USG) WAS ATTEMPTING TO DAMAGE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS. IN ITS

STATEMENT TO VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS THE CUBAN EMBASSY CHARGED THAT

THE USG HAD DELIBERATELY DIRECTED A FOREIGN NEWSMAN TO CONTACT

CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO EXTRACT INFORMATION AND/

280-10064

1 copies made
 4/19/78 JSG/j's
 Re: Avila
 for review at FBIHQ by
 HSCA re 3/14/78 request.
 (See Bufile #82-117290).

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OR STATEMENTS FROM THEM WHICH COULD BE USED IN AN ARTICLE CONCERNING THE 6 OCTOBER 1976 BOMBING OF A CUBANA AIRLINER AND CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL. THE TONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED AND MATERIAL COVERED BY THE NEWSMAN DURING HIS 30 MARCH INTERVIEW WITH ~~Venezuelan~~ CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ~~ROBERTO~~ MARQUEZ AND PEDRO GOMEZ, INDICATED TO THE CUBANS THAT THE JOURNALIST INTENDS TO WRITE AN ARTICLE TYING THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO THE CUBAN EXILE MOVEMENT AND THE CUBANA BOMBING.

2. THE CUBAN EMBASSY ADMITTED THAT MARQUEZ AND GOMEZ HAD BEEN IN ERROR IN MEETING WITH THE NEWSMAN, BUT INSISTED THAT THEY HAD MADE NO COMMENTS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS BEING DETRIMENTAL TO THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OR CRITICAL OF VENEZUELAN HANDLING OF THE CUBANA CASE. HOWEVER, THE CUBANS WARNED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEWSMAN MIGHT CLAIM THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS INFORMATION WITH THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS. THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE, WANTED IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT CUBAN OFFICIALS HAD NOT PROVIDED THE NEWSMAN WITH ANY COMMENTS OR MATERIAL WHICH MIGHT APPEAR IN THE NEWSMAN'S FUTURE ARTICLES.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CUBANS CHARGED THAT THE FOREIGN NEWSMAN HAD THE BENEFIT OF A WIDE-RANGE OF INFORMATION ON CUBAN

SECRET